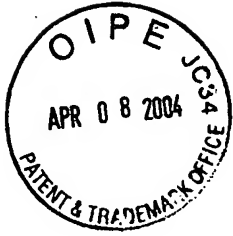


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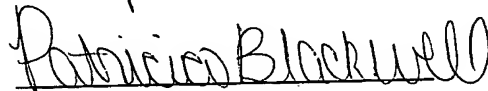
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO: 02606

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Kenneth George SADLER et al.
Serial No : 10/049,578
Filed : February 13, 2002
For : APPLICATOR FOR SURGICAL CLIPS
Examiner : Paul A. Roberts
Art Unit : 3731

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)

The undersigned hereby certifies that this document is being placed in the United States mail with first-class postage attached, addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the 6th day of April, 2004.


Patricia Blackwell

Commissioner for Patent
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

STATEMENT FILED PURSUANT TO THE DUTY OF
DISCLOSURE UNDER 37 CFR §§1.56, 1.97 AND 1.98

Sir:

Pursuant to the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §§1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the Applicants request consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement.

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Compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97

This Information Disclosure Statement has been filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits in the above-identified case. No fee or certification is required.

Information Cited

The Applicants hereby make of record in the above-identified application the information listed on the attached form PTO/SB08A. The order of presentation of the references should not be construed as an indication of the importance of the references.

Explanation of Non-English Language References

An English language abstract for each of the non-English language references listed on the PTO/SB08A is attached.

Remarks

A copy of each of the above-identified information is enclosed unless otherwise indicated on the attached form PTO/SB/08A (modified). It is respectfully requested that:

1. The Examiner consider completely the cited information, along with any other information, in reaching a determination concerning the patentability of the present claims;
2. The enclosed form PTO/SB/08A be signed by the Examiner to evidence that the cited information has been fully considered by the Patent and Trademark Office during the examination of this application;
3. The citations for the information be printed on any patent which issues from this application.

By submitting this Information Disclosure Statement, the Applicants make no representation that a search has been performed, of the extent of any search performed, or that more relevant information does not exist.

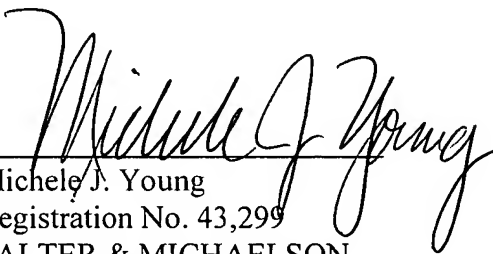
By submitting this Information Disclosure Statement, the Applicants make no representation that the information cited in the Statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

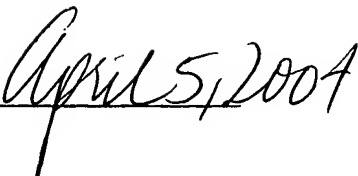
By submitting this Information Disclosure Statement, the Applicants make no representation that the information cited in the Statement is, or is considered to be, in fact, prior art as defined by 35 U.S.C. §102.

Notwithstanding any statements by the Applicants, the Examiner is urged to form his own conclusion regarding the relevance of the cited information.

An early and favorable action is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

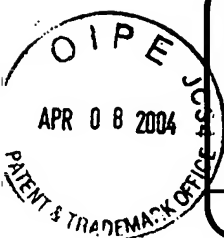
By: 
Michele J. Young
Registration No. 43,299
SALTER & MICHAELSON
321 South Main Street
Providence, RI 02903-7128
Tel. (401) 421-3141
FAX (401) 861-1953

Dated: 

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 3

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/049,578
Filing Date	February 13, 2002
First Named Inventor	Kenneth George SADLER et al.
Group Art Unit	3731
Examiner Name	Paul A. Roberts
Attorney Docket Number	02606

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials [*]	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
	1.	3,270,745		Wood	09/06/1966	
	2.	3,854,482		Laugherty et al.	12/25/1974	
	3.	3,926,195		Bleier et al.	12/25/1975	
	4.	4,418,694		Beroff et al.	12/01/1983	
	5.	4,424,810		Jewusiak	01/01/1984	
	6.	4,489,725		Casey Donn et al.	12/25/1984	
	7.	4,702,247		Blake III et al.	10/27/1987	
	8.	4,822,348		Casey	04/01/1989	
	9.	4,942,886		Timmons	07/01/1990	
	10.	4,988,355		Leveen et al.	01/01/1991	
	11.	5,002,552		Casey Donn	03/26/1991	
	12.	5,171,250		Yoon	12/15/1992	
	13.	5,219,353		Garvey, III et al.	06/15/1993	
	14.	5,282,812		Suarez, Jr.	01/01/1994	
	15.	5,359,993		Slater et al.	11/01/1994	
	16.	5,437,680		Yoon	8/1/1995	
	17.	5,478,003		Green et al.	12/26/1995	
	18.	5,507,297		Slater et al.	04/16/1996	
	19.	5,695,505		Yoon	12/09/1997	
	20.	5,849,019		Yoon Inbae	12/15/1998	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials [*]	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	21.	GB	886356		Kariher et al.	01/03/1962		
	22.	GB	972 731		Gerendas	10/14/1964		
	23.	DE	27 32 326		Gebruder Sulzer AG	01/11/1979		
	24.	EP	0 220 643		U.S. Surgical Corp	05/06/1987		
	25.	GB	2 243 789		Femcare Limited	11/13/1991		
	26.	WO	95/13023		Innovative Surg	05/18/1995		
	27.	GB	2,177,748		Femcare Limited	01/28/1987		
	28.	GB	2,297,487		Ezeh Uchechukwu	08/07/1996		
	29.	WO	0105309		Femcare Limited	01/25/2001		
	30.	GB	1,530,282		Filshie	10/25/1978		

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¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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Examiner Name	Paul A. Roberts
Attorney Docket Number	02606

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Sheet 2 of 3

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

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		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	33.	GB	2,251,794		Casey Medical Prod	07/22/1992		
	34.	GB	2,226,958		Femcare Limited	07/18/1990		
	35.	WO	91/08708		Yoon	06/27/1991		
	36.	DE	40 15 562		Storz	11/21/1991		
	37.	EP	0 916 309		Schilder	05/19/1999		
	38.	EP	0 820 725		USSC	01/28/1998		
	39.	WO	94/15537		Yoon	07/21/1994		
	40.	GB	2,054,384		Trewavis	02/18/1981		
	41.	FR	2 709 944		Cuilleron	03/24/1995		
	42.	EP	0087941		Ethicon	09/07/1983		

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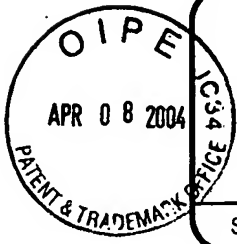
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